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Public Information From:

Franklin County Emergency Management and Homeland Security
5300 Strawberry Farms Blvd.
Columbus, Ohio 43230



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Helping Somali Residents Prepare for Disaster

Michael R. Pannell, left, Director of Franklin County Emergency Management and Homeland Security, listens intently as Jibril Hirsi interprets his point in a public meeting Sept. 29 at the Somali Community Association of Ohio. Pannell led a presentation about emergency preparedness that concluded with questions from the audience of approximately 50 Somali residents. Interpreter services were provided by Hirsi and Adam O'Hirsi, both of Somali Community Access Network. Pannell presented a weather alert radio and Somali-language emergency preparedness wall posters to the SCAO. The agency plans to make similar presentations to other Somali community centers in Franklin County.

-30-

See attached photo, "[\\www2k\emahs\documents\somali_meeting_9-29-09_2.jpg](http://www2k.emahs.documents.somali_meeting_9-29-09_2.jpg)."